

Filed for intro on 02/01/95
Senate Bill _____
By _____

House Bill No.HJR0042
By Rigsby

A RESOLUTION to recognize "Franklin County Treasures" by
Eleanor Barnes Murray as the official poem of
Franklin County.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That
"Franklin County Treasures" by Eleanor Barnes Murray is hereby recognized by this General
Assembly as the official poem of Franklin County in appreciation of this exemplary literary
work's representation of the panoramic history and proud cultural heritage of Franklin County,
Tennessee. The text of "Franklin County Treasures" follows, to wit:

FRANKLIN COUNTY TREASURES

In the County we call Franklin, in South Central Tennessee
One finds that natural blessings have been poured abundantly.
From the highlands of Sewanee to the verdant wooded coves,
Each turn reveals a priceless gem--an open treasure trove.
Of rivers, lakes, and mountains the county boasts its share,
With scenes of natural beauty that are well beyond compare;
The redbud of the springtime and the leaves of autumn gold
Give way to equal splendor when snow capped peaks unfold.

To count our treasures one by one, we focus on the scenes,
We view the Cross on Sewanee Mount, as day and night it gleams;
We see church spires on steeples tall that help to give us mooring,
And hear the chimes from All Saint's tower, with strains sublime, assuring.

We shed a tear at Hundred Oaks, our castle of renown,
As stark and bleak the ruins stand, a portion now burned down;
A monument of Arthur Marks and Brit's Sir Walter Scott,
The framework of the turret stands to mark the hallowed spot.

We claim the pride our own Falls Mill, just off Route Sixty-Four,
And see The Depot Cowan saved, recalling days of yore.
The Jail Museum stores treasures rare in antiquated cells,
And calls to mind the days long past from history's deep dug wells.
We ride again "The Mountain Goat", or pass The Tunnel through,
Recalling that the feat was done in eighteen fifty-two.
The River Elk still flows along as quiet as any lamb,
Until the raging waters rise and challenge Tims Ford Dam.

Gone is the home in Estill Springs, "The Yellowhammer's Nest",
From which Will Allen Dromgoole plied her literary quest.
Gone, too, resorts so popular in summers long ago,
"Water Cure" and "East Brook" where healing waters flow;
Winchester Springs" and others offered the very best,
And "Cured whatever ailed you"; provided peace and rest.
"Keith Springs" and also "Sherwood", to mention just a few,
Thrived well in nineteen hundred, as "Dripping Springs" did too.

But, to replace the Summer Spas and provide recreation,
The man-made lakes fill vale and cove--to some bring occupation.
They, too, are treasures to enjoy, for young and old alike,
As, day by day, they wend their way to see Tims Ford State Park.
Yet other scenes of splendor are found where trails begin--
By Huntland and Old Salem, where stood the famous Inn,
In Belvidere and Harmony, and also in Oak Grove;
By lovely Crow Creek Valley, and on to Sinking Cove.

To add its touch of beauty, also increase its coffers,
"The Nursery Center of the South" the county proudly offers.
The Shadows and the Chattins, the Nicholsons and Hales,
Were pioneers who led the way for those who now prevail.
In early May the clover of crimson color hue
Reminds us of its origin, brought here by one John Ruch.
In fields ablaze with color of scarlet velvet sheen,
We hail the pretty lassies who were Crimson Clover Queens.

We turn to heroes long ago, and recent ones with pride,
For Franklin County's name has been emblazoned far and wide;
In war and peace the county has upheld its strong tradition
And furnished leaders, far and wide, fulfilling every mission.
Of governors, there four have been in our historic journey:
Harris, Horton, Albert Marks, and also Peter Turney.
Attorney General Stewart -him- we list among the great,
A U.S. Senator became and credit brought his state.

One Jesse Bean, a pioneer who helped to build our nation,

Is honored by a creek call "Bean" and by a cross-road station.
Young David Crockett paused awhile, upon his westward way,
And left his "Polly" buried here in Franklin County clay.

"The Knight of Franklin County", Sir Francis Joseph Campbell,
Although blind, succeeded, where many others fail.
For "Academy of Music" and the college he designed,
He was knighted by King Edward in nineteen hundred nine.

Franklin County led the South in early education,
Z. C. Graves and Mary Sharp were known throughout the nation.
There was Carrick's own Academy, and then the Normal School
Where R. A. Clark and Bledsoe began their famous rule.
The early school for females, "The Academy" was led
By Connell and by Biddle who served as its first head.
Professor Townsend history made for school that bore his name.
While Decherd's Terrill College brought the town its lasting fame.

To list the county's lawyers would be an endless quest,
With Judges and Associates the county has been blessed.
Their pictures hang upon the wall--The Courthouse "Hall of Fame":
They hold a place of honor as past deeds they proclaim.
Men like C. C. Chattin, Supreme Court Judge of state,
Or Lieutenant Governor "Pete" Haynes, as Speaker of the Senate.
"Tall Men of Law and Justice" which no one could demean,
Since early eighteen hundred brought James and Nathan Green.

Also upon the courthouse walls hang other treasures dear:
Murals two depict the days when Indian braves were here
Or when the pioneers moved west--by land and boat they came--
They tell the saga, done by art, and signed by artists' name
Indebted to the "Guilt" are we for such a rare display,
Posterity will call them great, and endless thanks convey,
Likewise, the quilt the ladies made hangs framed beside the door;
Each square depicts a club's home scene, with appliqués galore.

In War for Independence, before we were a state,
Are those whose monuments will stand, forever heroes great.
Patroit James Lewis and Captain Estill too
Joined James and Samuel Handley, the British to subdue.
John Woods and also Harris, and many, many more,
For those who formed that honored band were brave men by the score.
They gave their full devotion that we might all be free;
Their bodies lie in Franklin soil, on hillside and in lea.

Captain Peter Turney, in the War Between the States,
Was strong in his conviction to uphold the rights of state.
He led the famous regiment, the first in Tennessee,
As soldier, governor and judge, an honored man was he.
We mention Edmund Kirby-Smith, a general of his day,
As we reverse the memory of the noble men in gray.

Symbolic of the courage of all Sewanee sons,
"The Cross" was placed to honor those who served in World War One.

We claim for Franklin County the famous "Girl Next Door",
And named the Decherd Boulevard for our own Dinah Shore.
Born in Franklin County, and known as "Fanny Rose",
She played in many movies and also TV shows.
Another charming lady whom Franklin County claims
Is Sara Barnwell Elliot, an authoress of fame.
She made her home in Sewanee, where she not only wrote
But worked throughout the nation for women's right to vote.

We find the Doctors' Building upon the proper site,
Which bears the name we all proclaim of Dr. Reynolds Fite
We praise the family doctors who served the county well:
Anderton and Kirby-Smith, Murrell and Estill,
Along with Dr. Will Frank Smith who to Decherd came,
And, later, followed by two sons who wore the "Doctor" name.
Then there were those who joined them on down Huntland Way,
Templeton and Sutton, and Doctor E. Q. Downey.

Franklin County views with pride another native son,
By Britain's Queen he has been dubbed "Sir" John Marks Templeton.
Throughout the world he's noted for the yearly prize he gives
To one who daily serves mankind and his religion lives.
He shares his wealth and wisdom on Wall Street and right here
By sponsorship of contests which are held two times each year.
We praise him for the work he does, and for his generous giving,
He's known by every boy and girl who read his "Laws For Living".

When we survey our heritage and list our finest treasures,
We've overlooked our greatest ones--our talent without measure.
Within our schools we find them, our children of today,
They'll flourish on the morrow if we train them well today.
It's well to look behind us and see the things we've done,
But, as we face the future, we know we've just begun;
Not what our county HAS BEEN, but what we pray 'TWILL BE,
Our own, our native county, in South Central Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our most sincere gratitude and
appreciation to Eleanor Barnes Murray for her skilled and heartfelt composition of "Franklin
County Treasures", a beautiful poem that evokes the very essence of Franklin County and her
very special citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a presentation copy of this resolution be prepared
for Eleanor Barnes Murray.

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